APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/837,047	04/18/2001	Roger Everette Sanders	343355600028	9203

			EXAMINER
24325	7590	01/05/2005	ROSWELL, MICHAEL

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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2173	

DATE MAILED: 01/05/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *15 November 2004*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-19* is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-19* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6)☐ Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the

basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 3, 5-12 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by

Examiner's prior art screenshots of Microsoft Outlook 2000, (see Fig. 11 for copyright date),

hereinafter Outlook.

Regarding claims 1, 12 and 17, Outlook teaches providing a first control that operates

within a window of a graphical user interface (taught as the icons shown in the "Folder List"

portion of Fig. 1), manipulating the first control to access a second control, wherein the second

control includes data records (taught as the selection of one of the icons in the Folder List

portion of Figs. 1 and 2, with the "Test Contacts" icon being selected in Fig. 1, and the

"Calendar" icon being selected in Fig. 2, wherein the second control is presented to the user in

the large right panel of Fig. 1), wherein the second control is configured to operate within the

first control (taught inherently as the reliance of the second control upon the selection of the first

control), wherein the data records are from a database (taught inherently as the ability to store

contact information and maintain that information between Outlook sessions), and modifying at

least one of the data records through use of the second control (taught as the ability to bring up

a contact modification window through manipulation, e.g. double-clicking, of a contact control,

shown at Fig. 6).

Regarding claim 3, Outlook teaches a pop-up window providing a menu of operations, wherein the operations are configured to perform actions on a selected data record within the second control, taught as the right-click menu of Fig. 3 for manipulating records by opening the contact modification window or deleting a selected record.

Regarding claim 5, Outlook teaches adding a new data record to the database through the use of the second control, taught as the "New Contact" window of Fig. 4, opened by double-clicking the large right panel of Fig. 1.

Regarding claim 6, Outlook teaches deleting a data record from the database through use of the second control, taught as the deletion of a selected record by pressing the "Delete" key, or through pop-up menu means, the end result being displayed at Fig. 5.

Regarding claim 7, Outlook teaches renaming a data record through use of a second control, as shown in Figs. 6 and 7.

Regarding claims 8 and 9, Outlook teaches indicating selection status of a selected data record by changing the contact name font color and the color of the bar around the contact name, shown at Fig. 7, being proximate to the selected data record.

Regarding claim 10, Outlook allows for the selection of multiple data records and modifying as a group the selected multiple data records, taught as the selection of multiple

records at Fig. 8, the opening of a contact edit window for each record by pressing the "Enter"

key at Fig. 9, or the deletion of the selected records by pressing the "Delete" key at Fig. 10.

Regarding claim 11, Outlook teaches indicating the selection status of each selected

data record at Fig. 8.

Regarding claim 15, Outlook teaches an individual selection box associated with each of

the data records and operative to indicate the selection status of the associated data records,

taught as changing the contact name font color and the color of the bar around the contact

name, shown at Fig. 7.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as
> set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be
> patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious
> at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said
> subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention
> was made.

Claims 2, 4 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Outlook and Arcuri et al (US Patent 6,133,915), hereinafter Arcuri.

Regarding claims 2 and 18, Outlook teaches an interface for modifying data records that

includes a first control and a second control accessed through the manipulation of the first

control, wherein the second control includes data records and is capable of indicating the

selection of multiple data records.

Outlook fails to explicitly teach the first control being a pull-down menu and the second control being displayed within the pull-down menu region, and including separate checkbox interface items associated with displayed data records.

Arcuri teaches a system for customizing controls on a toolbar that includes reading control list records stored in a database, and selecting multiple controls for manipulation by the user, at col. 11, lines 51-59 and Figs. 2b-2d. Furthermore, Arcuri teaches the display of a checkbox selection indicator for multiple data items within the bounds of a drop-down menu, at col. 8, lines 20-25.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Outlook and Arcuri before him at the time the invention was made to modify the first and second controls with multiple selection capability of Outlook with the pull-down and checkbox interfacing of Arcuri in order to obtain an interface for modifying data records wherein the user may select multiple records to manipulate through a checkbox interface displayed within a pull-down menu.

One would be motivated to make such a combination for the advantage of interface area saved by utilizing a drop-down box, and through the utile interchangeability of "conventional GUI elements", such as icons, checkboxes, and descriptive text. See Arcuri, col. 8, lines 20-25.

Regarding claim 4, Outlook inherently teaches storing data records, as the records are maintained between Outlook sessions. Databases and record sources are extremely well known in the art to provide for such storage, and would have been obvious to include in the inherent storage of Outlook. Furthermore, Outlook provides for dynamic record generation by allowing a user to create and modify contact information dynamically, as shown in Fig. 6.

Outlook also includes the functionality to import addresses from external file sources, thus

giving the capability to display data records from two or more data sources, at Fig. 12.

Claims 13 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Outlook and Torres (US Patent 5,317,687).

In regards to claim 13, Outlook has been shown to teach a graphical user interface

comprising a first control, second control, and a plurality of modifiable data items in said second

control.

While Outlook teaches such a method, the reference fails to explicitly incorporate an

"overview selection status box" that indicates whether any of the data items are selected when

the second control is hidden from the user.

Torres, however, discloses a graphical user interface complete with an overview

selection status box (Figure 3 and Figure 4A-E).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

invention to incorporate the overview selection status box of Torres into the interface of Outlook.

By utilizing a representation of selections in a single graphical metaphor as described by Torres

in combination with the graphical user interface of Outlook, one would obtain an interface

including an overview selection status box.

The motivation to do so is given by Torres, who states, "it is therefore one object of the

present invention to represent a group of menu items in terms of a single graphical metaphor for

that group" (Column 2, Lines 2-4). Torres gives further motivation when disclosing "an icon

evocative of an arrangement of items permitting direct manipulation techniques for

rearrangement of the group and selection of particular items from the group" (Column 2, Lines

10-14).

In regards to claim 14, Outlook has been shown to teach a graphical user interface comprising a first control, second control, and a plurality of modifiable data items in said second control.

While Outlook teaches such a method, the reference fails to explicitly incorporate a "tri-state overview selection status box" that indicates whether any of the data items are selected when the second control is hidden from the user.

Torres, however, discloses a graphical user interface complete with an overview selection status box capable of indicating multiple states (Figure 3 and Figure 4A-E).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the multiple state selection box of Torres into the interface of Outlook. By utilizing a representation of selections in a single graphical metaphor as described by Torres in combination with the graphical user interface of Outlook, one would obtain an interface including a tri-state overview selection status box or multi-state overview selection box.

The motivation to do so is given by Torres, who states, "it is therefore one object of the present invention to represent a group of menu items in terms of a single graphical metaphor for that group" (Column 2, Lines 2-4). Torres gives further motivation when disclosing "an icon evocative of an arrangement of items permitting direct manipulation techniques for rearrangement of the group and selection of particular items from the group" (Column 2, Lines 10-14). Torres also discloses description of the many states of his representation when stating, "Fig. 4a depicts a situation where no options have been selected" (Column 4, Lines 17-18), "Fig. 4c depicts in pictorial form a situation where icon ring 48 is selected and one option from stack 54 has been selected" (Column 4, Lines 27-29), and "Fig. 4d depicts a situation where two options have been selected while the icon ring itself remains selected" (Column 4, Lines 34-35).

Claims 16 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Outlook.

Regarding claim 16, Outlook inherently teaches storing data records, as the records are maintained between Outlook sessions. Databases and record sources are extremely well known in the art to provide for such storage, and would have been obvious to include in the inherent storage of Outlook. Furthermore, Outlook provides for dynamic record generation by allowing a user to create and modify contact information dynamically, as shown in Fig. 6. Outlook also includes the functionality to import addresses from external file sources, thus giving the capability to display data records from two or more data sources, at Fig. 12. The Examiner takes OFFICIAL NOTICE of these teachings. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to utilize database and record source storage for maintaining the contact information between sessions. One would be motivated to make such a combination for the advantage of highly structural storage afforded by databases and record sources.

Regarding claim 20, Outlook have been shown *supra* to teach the inclusion of databases for maintaining contact information between sessions. Accessing a database through the use of SQL is extremely well known in the art, and would have been obvious to include in the database access of Outlook. The Examiner takes OFFICIAL NOTICE of these teachings. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include SQL access to the contact information database, for the advantages of highly structured and simple access offered by SQL.
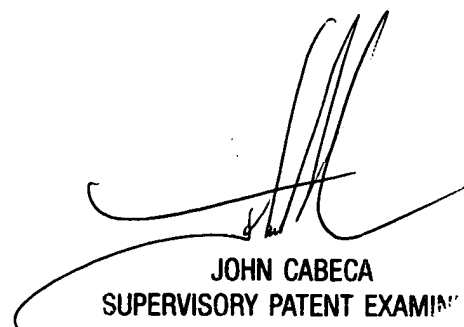
Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The prior art made of record pertains to user interfaces with second controls embedded in first controls, and the state of the art in general.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Roswell whose telephone number is (571) 272-4055. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 - 6:00 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cabeca can be reached on (571) 272-4048. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Michael Roswell
12/22/2004

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